

LEGEND: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald, by Edward Jay Epstein (Reader's Digest Press/McGraw-Hill, \$12.95): This is really two books in one. The first suggests that Oswald was recruited by the KGB while a Marine in Japan, and that he transmitted secret U-2 information which enabled the Soviets to shoot down Francis Gary Powers. If true, this could explain the "defection" to Russia. It is also possible that the Soviets learned to pinpoint the U-2 overflights on their own, just as they probably developed nuclear bombs on their own. (The tempting notion that anybody else's technology is a "secret" that's been "stolen" has done enough damage, particularly to our wits, which we need.) One pays attention here, however, because Epstein, no matter how driven he may have become to nail a Big Story, has in

the past been scrupulous in research and remains modest in assertion. He does not suggest that the JFK assassination was ordered by Moscow; in fact, quite the contrary. There may have been a Cuban connection, but in Epstein's view the Russians had nothing to do with the assassination and were appalled by the possibility that we might think they did. Which leads to the second book—how "moles" were possibly planted in the CIA and the FBI in order to cover up Oswald's KGB connection and thereby dissociate Moscow from the murder. This is all fascinating, not unsensible, and soberly presented. As usual, Epstein provides very full notes on sources.

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VOICE APRIL 3, 1978